United Nations A/52/1015

General Assembly

Distr.: General
7 August 1998

Original: English

Fifty-second session
Agenda item 10

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization

Note by the President of the General Assembly

In paragraph 3 of its resolution 51/242 of 15 September 1997, the General Assembly requested its President to consult on the possibility of continuing the activities of the Informal Open-ended Working Group on an Agenda for Peace in the areas of post-conflict peace-building and preventive diplomacy and peacemaking on the basis of the work already accomplished in these areas and with a view to concluding its work.

The consultations I undertook, in view of that request by the General Assembly, have confirmed the great importance Member States attach to matters relating to United Nations activities in the fields of post-conflict peace-building and preventive diplomacy and peacemaking. I was informed that considerable progress had been made in those areas during the previous meetings of the Informal Open-ended Working Group on an Agenda for Peace.

At the same time, I was advised that a number of important differences had been brought to light in the course of consideration of those matters within the framework of the Working Group. Particular difficulty was encountered in efforts to reconcile respect for sovereignty with situations where it is not always feasible to obtain consent of the Government concerned to undertake preventive measures. This was one of the major obstacles that prevented the Working Group from concluding its work in the area of preventive diplomacy and peacemaking. The main cause that prevented the Working Group from concluding its work in the area of post-conflict peace-building was disagreement over the issue of assigning the key role for post-conflict peace-building to the General Assembly.

Representatives of various Member States whom I consulted were unanimous in their assessments that at the current stage no pre-conditions exist that could lead to a breakthrough in reconciling those fundamental differences. Nonetheless, a strong conviction remained that the General Assembly should not lose sight of this matter and that no efforts should be spared to reach a consensus on the issues related to post-conflict peace-building and preventive diplomacy and peacemaking.

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In view of the results of my consultations, I would like to recommend to my successor to the post of President of the General Assembly to continue to consult during the fifty-third regular session of the General Assembly as requested in resolution 51/242.

(*Signed*) Hennadiy **Udovenko**